

## LUNCH BREAK CHATTER.

### Intent of the Story:

- ✓ *The story of the "LUNCH-BREAK CHATTER" was prepared for a youth session to discuss some of the wrong attitudes towards life found in people today.*
- ✓ *The participants were asked to reflect and discover what their attitudes were and what their attitudes should be.*

## The Story.

In the cashier's box there were all sorts of notes: some new, some old, some big, some small. Some clean, some soiled. At lunch break, the cashier locked his box and went away. Then the notes began to chatter.

A crisp and unsoiled note said to her companions: "You know, I feel very comfy in this little box. I do not wish to go out, at all. Here, I can be all by myself and undisturbed. Ugh! I do not like to be touched by anyone and get soiled. I dislike company. I want to be left alone."

A second note cut in: "I? I'm only longing to get out of this box and go to people's homes. I loved most to go to poor people's homes. When I see the joy of the poor when I enter their house, I feel so great! My ambition in life is to bring joy to others, especially to the poor, to help them in their needs and lessen their sufferings."

Another note was ready with a rejoinder: "What? . To go to the dirty, dingy and smelly houses of the poor? Blah! I certainly wouldn't want that. I like going to the houses of the rich, Vow! Everything posh! There, in the cool comfort of a luxurious almirah, I wallow in the pleasures of scented air and soft sensuous contacts! Where there is pleasure, there I feel nice!"

A vivacious little note chirped in: "You know, I like going round and round. I like to see people, visit places, to see the world. I hate to stay put anywhere. I cannot remain quiet and be tied down to anything."

A fat note said: "I like to be productive and generate more money. You know money is worth one's life. I enjoy being kept in a bank at high interest or being invested in some prosperous business. To produce more and more money is my aim in life."

Another note shared his views: "For me the thing I want most is security. I hate risks and dangers. I am afraid of being snatched away by the nimble fingers of a thief. I long for the security of a strong box and the safety of a vault."

After lunch, the cashier returned to his counter. Before he could open the cash box, a dirty and somber note remarked: "I love to be in the hands of those who love me most, of

those who worship me. Nothing in the world will make them part with me. They stare at me, they pet me, and they caress me. People call them "avaricious" others call them "misers", but I call them "lovers". They know my worth."

### **POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION**

In the story we describe seven different attitudes to life represented by seven "Banknotes".

#### **The seven attitudes described are**

**1st attitude:** "THE LONER". He wants to be left alone; He lives his life in his own world. No friends. No social life.

**2rd attitude:** "THE LOVER OF PEOPLE': He is Generous. He lives for others. He has concerned for people.

**3rd attitude:** "THE PLEASURE SEEKER" He lives for pleasures and sensuous enjoyments.

**4th attitude :** "THE BUTTERFLY". Light headed. Superficial. Scatter-brain. No seriousness of purpose. Easy going.

**5th attitude:** "THE GREED'Y". Love for money and possessions. 'To have more and more. .

**6<sup>th</sup> attitude:** "THE SECURITY SEEKER". Shy. Fearful. Security above all No taking risks. Withdrawn. Under achiever.

**7th attitude:** "THE SELFISH". Self-centered. Makes much of himself. He wants to be cared for and fussed about;

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **Step one - Personal Work.**

Ask the participants to describe in writing

1. The attitudes each note displayed towards life
2. What will be the characteristics of persons having those attitudes?.
3. How will those different persons likely relate to people; at home, in school, college, office or elsewhere?
4. If they get married, what sort of family life theirs will be?
5. Towards the end of their lives, how will such persons feel?

#### **Step Two - Group work.**

The participants will share with the group their replies to the questions above.

The moderator will encourage discussion and interaction

### **Step Three – Personal Reflection and Interiorization**

The participants will work alone by themselves.

1. In your attitudes, values and behavior, with which of the notes do you identify most?
2. Are you happy with your attitudes and values? Are they what they ought to be?
3. Is there anything you would like to change? What?
4. How do you intend going about it? What steps will you take?

### **Step Four - Group Prayer**

- Remain silent for a while in the presence of God
- Read several times to yourself the jottings you took during the session
- Reflect and ponder on them.
- Pray to God to help you to put on the attitudes that will make your life happy and successful.
- Pray aloud now for one another.
- End with a hymn or two.